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INSIDE WASHINGTON

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Numerous Crises Foreseen

WASHINGTON — The pattern of world-wide events seems clearly to be pointing to a convergence of crises late this summer and fall that could overshadow the conflicts in the Middle East and Vietnam.

Well-informed sources believe the Kremlin is setting the stage for a series of closely connected crises in Korea, Cuba, and Berlin that will involve U.S. forces with those of other Communist nations but not the Soviets directly.

At all of these East-West confrontation points, the Russians are supplying vast new amounts of arms, as the Kremlin did in the Middle East just prior to the Israeli-Arab fighting.

Most immediate danger area now appears to be Korea, where two understrength divisions are stationed at the Demilitarized Armistice Zone dividing North and South Korea.

At the outbreak of the Middle East crisis, Soviet Deputy Premier Vladimir M. Novikov made a little-noticed visit to Pyongyang. During his stay in that capital the Soviet leader worked out a new strategy with North Korean authorities that so far has produced the following ominous developments:

- General mobilization of North Korean military forces and the civilian population.
- Arrival of new shipments of Soviet Soviet jet planes, tanks, and SAM ground-to-air missiles.
- A series of border incidents and naval clashes between North and South Korean units.
- Student demonstrations and riots in South Korea against the present pro-U.S. government.

SECOND FRONT

According to one U. S. intelligence estimate, Novikov's main mission was to arrange for North Korean military pressure on South Korea to force the latter's withdrawal of forces from South Vietnam.

The South Korean contingent of 45,000 troops is the largest from an Asian nation other than South Vietnam now fighting alongside U. S. troops.

A forced withdrawal of these veteran South Korean troops could be very embarrassing to the U.S. and could mean that additional Americans would have to be sent to Vietnam.

A renewal of the fighting in South Korea could also force the U. S. to send more troops there. Now, one out of every five soldiers in the two U. S. divisions in Korea is South Korean.

As the Kremlin official in charge of Russia's defense industries, Novikov is considered to be the Soviet's number one arms production expert. In recent weeks Novikov was given the extra task of overseeing foreign arms shipments.

In early March the North Koreans and Russians set the stage for Novikov's visit by signing an agreement calling for "military collaboration" as well as "cooperation in economic, scientific and technical fields."

Significantly, the last time the words "military collaboration" were included in a Soviet-North Korean agreement the latter launched its 1950 invasion of South Korea almost before the ink was dry on the document.

THE BERLIN FRONT

In East Germany the Russians have begun stockpiling a 60-day supply of food and military equipment, including all types of spare parts and ammunition, with the East Berlin armored divisions that now encircle West Berlin.

Since the Kremlin's policy has been to limit these forces to less than a week's supply, there is considerable uneasiness as to the military significance of this change. U. S. intelligence lists the supply build-ups as preparation for a possible blockade of West Berlin.

In a corresponding diplomatic move, Communist Party boss Leonid Brezhnev and Secretary Mikhail A. Suslov held a highly unusual meeting with Max Reimann, the first secretary of the illegal West German Communist Party, and his shadow government.

In a jointly signed document distributed widely throughout the Eastern European satellites, these Red leaders agreed that West Germany must give up its claim to West Berlin and recognize East Germany before the end of 1967.

This agreement is believed to be a forerunner to the signing of a Soviet-East German peace treaty this fall as part of Moscow's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Communist revolution in Russia.

THE CARIBBEAN FRONT

There is growing evidence that the Kremlin is preparing to force a new Cu-

Soviet arms shipments to Cuba continue at a level similar to the June-July period prior to the October 1962 missile confrontation. In the past two months more than 25,000 tons of arms have arrived in Cuba.

In recent weeks several crack regiments of Castro's 90,000-man army have been equipped with these Soviet arms and shifted into newly prepared defense positions near the U. S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

Arrival of the late model jet aircraft from Russia has boosted Cuba's airforce to more than 200 plane and makes it clear the dominant force in the Caribbean.

Unlike the Soviet-equipped Egyptian force, most of which was caught in the open and destroyed on the ground during the Middle East fighting, nearly all of Castro's jets are protected by bomb-proof caves.

During the past four months the Russians have changed the deployment of Cuba's 700 SAM ground-to-air missiles. Instead of being spread around the entire island, the missiles have been arranged to protect only four areas — Havana, Santiago, Santa Clara and Holguin.

This tightening of the air defenses has caused U. S. intelligence authorities to review reports from Cuban refugees that the Russians are building new intermediate range ballistic missile bases at Santiago and Holguin.

Should these IRBM reports be confirmed, the convergence of three major crises could make the fall of 1967 far more dangerous for the U.S. than the fall of 1962.

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